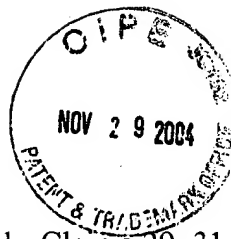


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REMARKS

Claims 28-30, 32-38, 41-45, and 47-49 stand rejected. Claims 29, 31, 39-40, 42-43, 47, 48, and 49 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under §35 U.S.C. §112 paragraph 2 and to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended Claims 28, 32, 34, 37, 44, and 45. Claims 27, 46, and 50 have been withdrawn. Claim 42 has been canceled. Thus, Claims 27-41 and 43-50 are pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and further examination in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Rejection under §35 U.S.C. §112 paragraph 2

The Examiner rejected Claims 28-29, 41-45, and 47-49 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended Claims 28, 44, and 45 to correctly identify the radially extending member as interacting with the spin nut. Claims 29, 41, 43, and 47-49 depend from one of Claims 28, 44, and 45. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections under §35 U.S.C. §112 paragraph 2 of Claims 28-29, 41, 43-45, and 47-49 have been overcome.

Rejection under §35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Zeman (U.S. Patent No. 3,540,451)

The Examiner rejected independent Claim 28 and dependent Claims 41, 44, and 45 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,540,451 to Zeman. In the Office Action, the Examiner also identified dependent Claim 42 as containing allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended Claim 28 to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent Claim 42.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of Claim 28 as amended. Dependent Claims 29, 38-41, 43-49 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 28 and thus are patentable for at least the same reasons that support the allowance of amended Claim 28.

Rejection under §35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Folden (U.S. Patent No. 5,536,258)

The Examiner rejected Claim 30 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,536,258 to Folden. In the Office Action, the Examiner cited the '258 patent for disclosing a receptacle. However, the structure disclosed in the '258 patent is different than the receptacle structure of Claim 30.

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Folden discloses a sleeve 120 which receives a female component 10 (see FIGURES 1-3). To that end, on the radially inner surface of the sleeve 120 is a set of threads 128 that mate with the threads 32 of the female portion 10. Folden further explains that the mechanical connection between the male portion 110 and the female portion 10 is achieved by the threading of the threads 32 of the female portion 10 with the threads 128 of the male portion 110.

In contrast, Applicant's Claim 30 is directed to a fitting that includes, among other elements, "a receptacle disposed distally upon the spin nut having an internal cross section which varies radially about its circumference." (emphasis added). While Folden does disclose a chamfer in the sleeve 120 along a longitudinal direction (see FIGURE 2), nowhere does Folden disclose the sleeve 120 having an internal cross section which varies radially about its circumference. Thus, the '258 patent fails to disclose, *inter alia*, the claimed structure. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of independent Claims 30. Dependent Claim 31 depends directly from independent Claim 30 and thus is patentable for at least the same reasons that support the allowance of Claim 30.

Rejection under §35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Bynum (U.S. Patent No. 5,586,790)

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 32, 34, and 37 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,586,790 to Bynum. In the Office Action, the Examiner cited the '790 patent for disclosing a connector fitting having a spin nut. However, the structure disclosed in the '790 patent is different than the connector fitting and spin nut structures of Claim 32.

Bynum discloses a capture device for use in environments subject to severe vibration, for example, aircraft. The capture device must not loosen or disassemble during use. (see col. 1, lines 15-17). The capture device includes a tang portion 196 formed with a hexagonal sleeve 200 adapted to fit over a drive hex 202 on a coupling part 204 (see FIGURES 17 and 18). When the capture device is assembled, the drive hex 202 fits within the sleeve 200. Bynum does not disclose a capture device that does not have the drive hex 202 positioned within the sleeve 200.

In contrast, Applicant's Claim 32 is directed to a fitting that includes, among other elements, "a spin nut comprising a generally tubular body slidably and rotatably disposed upon the elongated body of the connector fitting and being configured to secure to an adaptor independent of the radially extending member." (emphasis added). Claims 34 and 37 include similar claim elements. The '790 patent fails to disclose, *inter alia*, the claimed structure.

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Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of independent Claims 32, 34, and 37 as amended. Dependent Claims 33, 35, and 36 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claims 32 and 34 and thus are patentable for at least the same reasons that support the allowance of Claims 32 and 34.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.


The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the noted rejections and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if an issue requires clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve any such issue promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 11/24/04

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